

Gold King Mine Acid Mine Drainage Release – Analysis of Fate and Transport of Metals in the Animas and San Juan Rivers

# **Water Quality Since the Release Event**

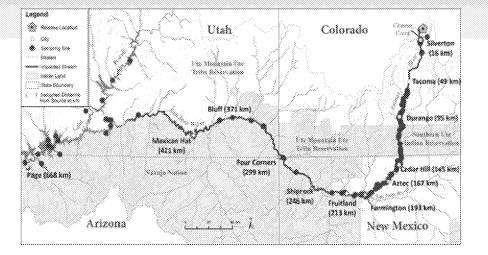
August 2015 to November 2016

Gold King Team National Exposure Research Lab/ORD December 9, 2016



# Fate of the Gold King Mine released metals

- Approximately 500,000 kg estimated to have been delivered from mine to Animas River at Silverton
  - 1% from within mine
  - 99% from waste pile outside
- 90% of mass deposited in the Animas River (most between Silverton and Durango CO)
- 5% deposited in the San
   Juan River
   (distributed over 250 km)
- 5% to Lake Powell











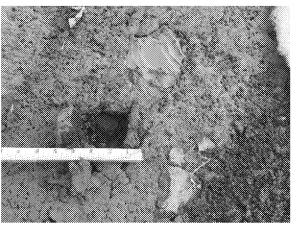
# Gold King Effects Continued After the Plume Passed

#### **CURRENT QUESTIONS:**

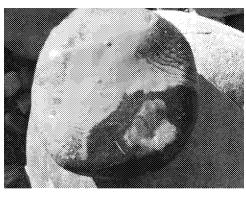
- What were the Gold King effects on water quality after the event?
- \* Has water quality returned to pre-event conditions?
- <sup>™</sup> Was there be a second wave of contamination during 2016 snowmelt when high flows could mobilize deposits?
- <sup>™</sup> Can we recognize the Gold King influence given the pre-existing contamination from historic mining?

### What Was Left Behind

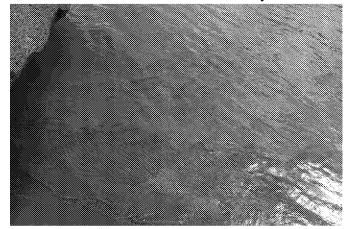
#### Sludge-like material



Colloids (Paint-like)



**Deposits along channel margins** 





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# Key Findings-Gold King Release Post Event

- ORD produced hydrologic and geochemical evaluations of the Gold Kin release during and for a year following the release
- Post event water quality response from August to October 2015 varied location
  - Animas in Colorado returned to background
  - Animas in New Mexico and San Juan River had some elevated metals above expected
  - 2016 snowmelt had elevated metals throughout the system—partly from Gold King, partly from historic mining impacts
    - Model results and analyses indicate GKM metals now out of rivers
    - 2016 samples after snowmelt at pre-event levels at all locations
    - We have a "fingerprint" unique to identify metals of the Gold King release
- There were some water quality exceedances before, during the plume and post event varying by location and state or tribe, some due to Gold King
- ORD findings will help inform EPA monitoring and reporting



Animas at Bakers Bridge (above) and popular swimming beach north of Durango (right)

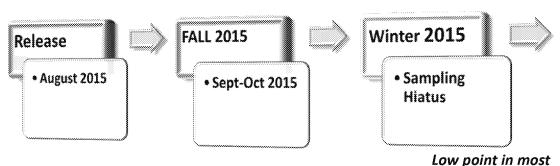
August 2016

Both areas experienced high settling rates during plume



# Synopsis of Post-Event Trends

#### Gold King release effects on water quality depended on where and when

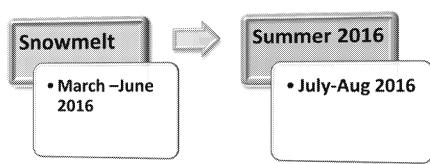


Deposition of materials through entire 550 km river

- WQ returned towards background within days
- Adjustments to water chemistry into August (1-3 weeks)

metals going into winter

- Post event water quality varied by location
- Some water quality criteria exceedances
- Extensive monitoring reveals chronic water quality exceedances not related to Gold King



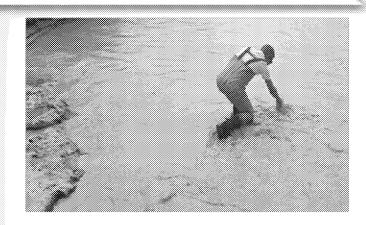
Mass analysis and water quality suggests Gold King release out of river system

- Expect elevated metals in upper Animas due to past contamination
- Metals elevated during snowmelt throughout the system
- Some evidence of additional metals due to Gold King
- Metals in sediment and water back to low concentrations by end of snowmelt

August – November 2016 Water and sediment concentrations are the same or lower than Fall 2015



### Water and Sediments Monitored Since the Release



#### **POST GOLD KING MONITORING**

- 1,400 total and dissolved water samples through 8/27/2016
- 820 sediment samples through 9/1/2016
- 294 sites with 1 or more samples

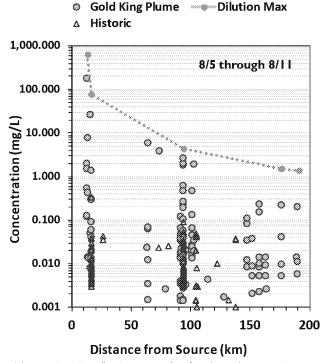
#### **HISTORIC DATA**

- Hundreds of water samples
- 30-50 sediment samples

#### **WATER:**

--Concentrations decreased in water and sediment moving down river from the Gold King during plume

#### Total Lead in Water

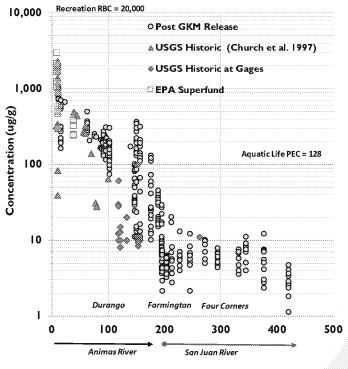


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#### Sediment:

- Deposited metals reflect historic contamination
- No statistical change from historic

#### Lead in Sediment



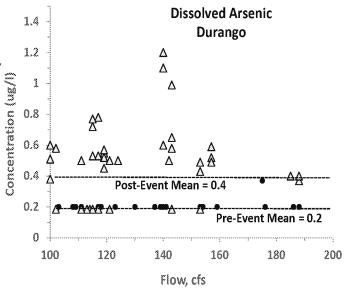
Distance from GKM Source (km)



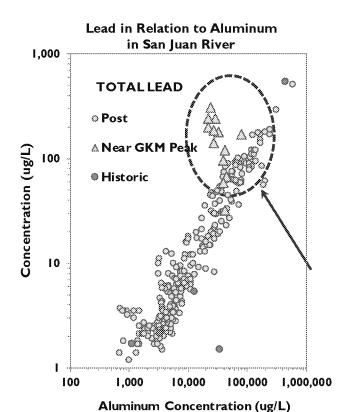
# Methods Rationale

# Statistical comparisons between pre- and post-event samples

- Limited to locations where pre-event data existed
- Comparisons with pre-event limited by available historic data
- Significantly reduced number of post-event monitoring samples that could be used



# Correlation analysis between trace metals and aluminum or iron



- Relationship between trace metals and Aluminum or Iron is an indicator of expected background levels in sediments and water
- Used in project as a sensitive signature of the of Gold King metals
- Maximizes use of available data
- Even a limited amount of historic data is useful

Lead high for amount of background aluminum as Gold King plume passed through

# Metals Concentration Trajectories Depended on Location

# Animas River in Colorado (RK 0 to 150):

- returned to pre-event levels in the weeks after the release
- stayed there through the winter

# Animas River in New Mexico (RK 150 to 192):

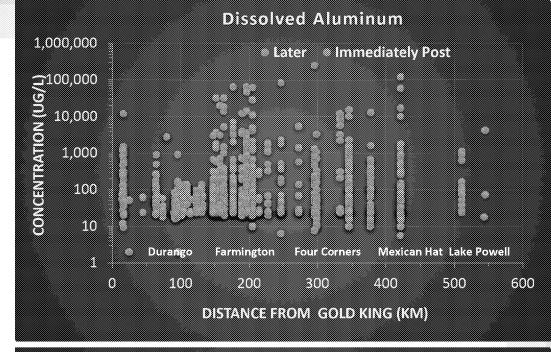
- Initially returned to lower levels (15 days)
- Most dissolved metals increased after Aug 27 storm

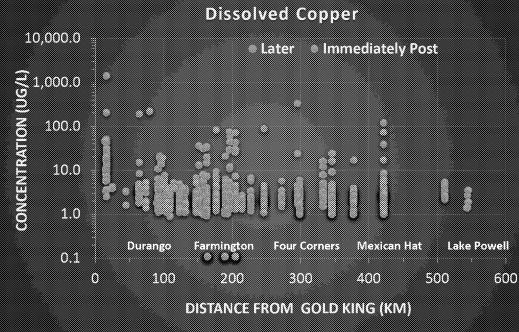
# San Juan River (Rk 193 to 540)

 Increased Aluminum and Iron in Animas carried into San Juan Immediate: Aug 5 to Aug 19 Later: after Aug 19

Aluminum and Iron oxides were a major component of deposited precipitates

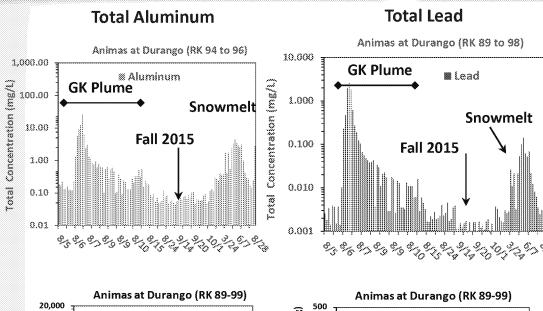
Gold King deposits influenced water chemistry over an extended period Aug 27-October 30+







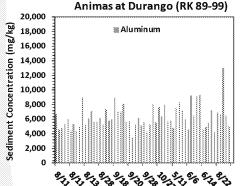
### Middle Animas -- Colorado Post Event

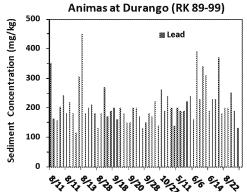


Animas at Durango CO

WATER

- Water concentrations receded over
   2 3 week period after the plume
- Trace metals very low during Fall 2015 (lower than historic)
- Metals increased and declined with flow during snowmelt
- Concentrations back to low levels in August 2016





### **SEDIMENT**

Event to August 2016

- Background sediment metals are high due primarily to legacy mining
- Sediment metals concentrations variable but relatively unchanged during Fall months and snowmelt
- Aluminum in the recent deposits "active"

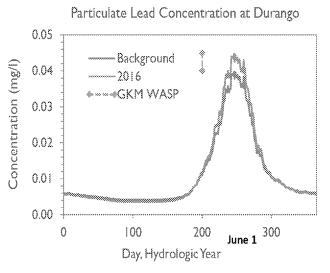
Plots include every sample within 10 km of Animas in the city of Durango plotted sequentially in time— PLOTS COMPRESS TIME



# Snowmelt-Colorado

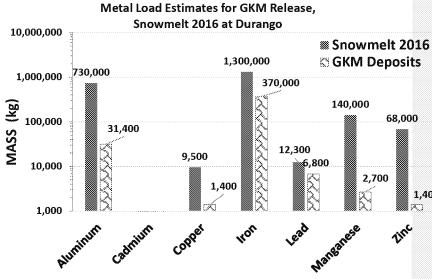
We expected increased metals concentrations during snowmelt based on historic observations

- Concentration increase was not large
- Volume of water carries a lot of mass
- Metals concentrations appeared to increase a small amount early in snowmelt due to Gold King relative to expected
- Concentrations returned to low levels by end of snowmelt

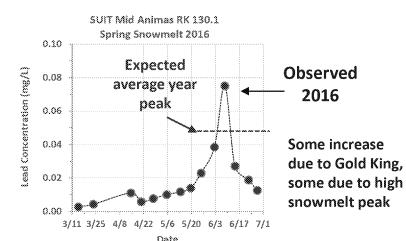


Predicted concentration based on historic data

Total metal mass transported through 2 months of snowmelt



More than enough to account for all of Gold King deposited mass



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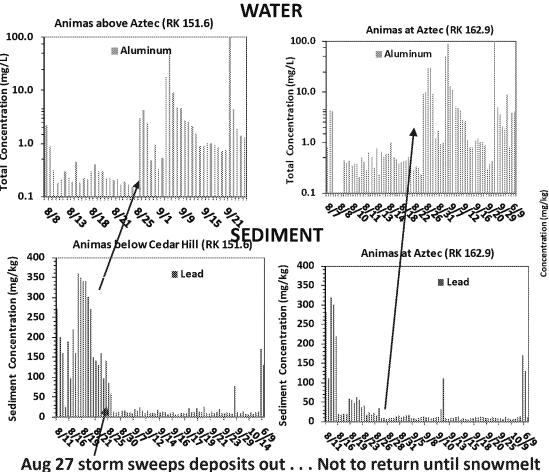


### Lower Animas Post Event

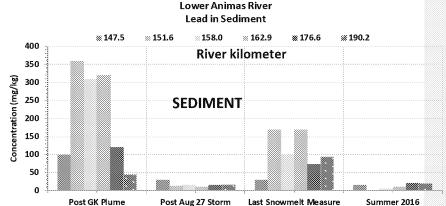
### Animas between Durango and Farmington NM RK 132-190

- Lead (and other metals) accumulated in sediment in lower Animas during and after Gold King plume
- Large storm 3 weeks after release cleans deposits from river
- Metals in water then increased
- Carried into San Juan
- Important for water quality
- Snowmelt concentrations in SJ increased—does this happen every year?

### Every observation at two locations over time

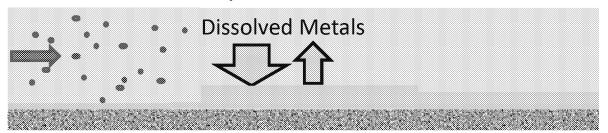


# Summary at 6 locations in lower Animas at key times during year



# Theory for why metals increased in the lower Animas River during the Fall after the Gold King Release

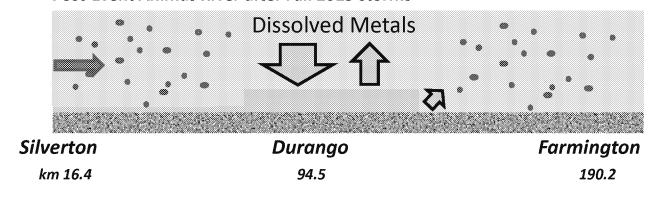
#### Post-event Animas River prior to Fall 2015 storms



Dissolved ions exchange between the water and deposited
Fe and Al hydroxides
Act like "sponge" for trace metals
Scavenge metals from water

# Deposited Yellowboy Sediments

#### Post-Event Animas River after Fall 2015 storms



Fall storms removed the sorptive "sponge" of yellowboy from the Animas in New Mexico allowing dissolved metals to remain in the water and travel downstream



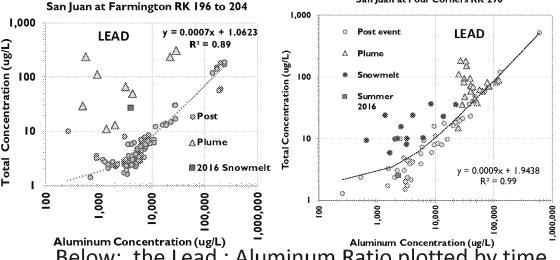
# San Juan Post Event Water/Sediment

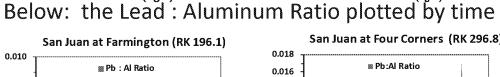
# Concentrations of metals (lead) in San Juan River

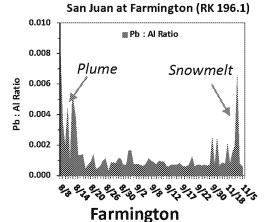
- Influenced by Animas near confluence in Farmington
- Were elevated during plume--undetectable at lower reaches near Mexican Hat
- Also elevated in water and sediment during snowmelt season
- Lead main metal detected

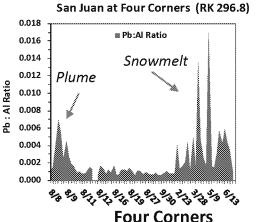
This correlation technique was powerful for identifying Gold King

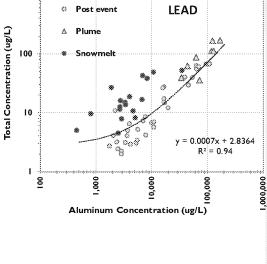


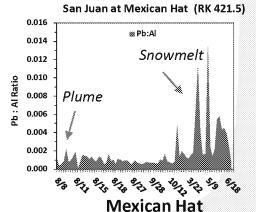












Farmington
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### Has the System Returned to Pre-Event?

# What Did Statistics Confirm About Post-Event Metals—Fall 2015? Water

- Most metals significantly lower after Gold King in the middle Animas (Colorado)
- Elevated Iron and Aluminum in lower Animas after August storms (New Mexico)
- Elevated Iron and Aluminum in San Juan throughout the period (NM, UT, Navajo)

#### **Sediment**

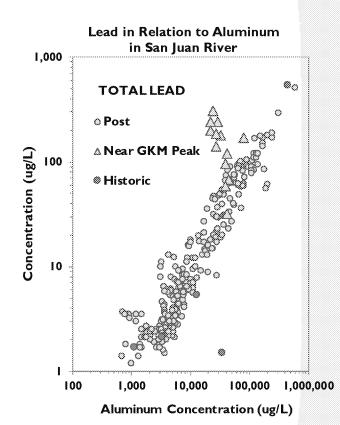
• Despite large deposited mass, no significant increase in river sediments

# What Remains to be Established? Water

- We saw a Gold King signature far down the San Juan during snowmelt (RK 350km Montezuma Creek). Will that reoccur in later years?
- Can we reliably establish baseline relationships between Aluminum and other metals as evidence to confirm the end of GKM influence in the system?

#### Sediment

We expect to see higher sediment mass moved during snowmelt every year in Colorado.
 Will we also see elevated metals during snowmelt in lower Animas and San Juan in 2016?





# Are Changes to Water Quality Meaningful?

#### **EPA** Conceptual Monitoring Plan Implemented 2016

- Proposes to answer this question by comparing observed concentrations to water quality criteria
- To assist OW in doing this for <sup>§t</sup> year monitoring results, we have done this screening

#### **About the Criteria**

- Multiple states and tribes located at different points along the river
- Criteria address both total and dissolved fractions
- Cover a wide range of concentrations depending on beneficial use
- Many tribal criteria thresholds much lower than states

24 metals x 40 criteria: 1400+ samples

Discolved

|                   |                         |                  |                  |         |         |        |           |          |          | ıvı      |          |        |       |         |          |           |          | ~~.         |        | , C.      |          |          |        |             |          |    |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|----|
| creening Crite    | ater Quality            | Screening        | Crite            | Ţ       | Assenis | mg/L   | Seryllium | Cadmium  | Calcium  | Chromium | Cobalt   | Copper | Iron  | Lead    | Marasium | Manganese | Mercury  | dolybdenan  | Nickel | Potassium | Salanium | Silver   | Sofium | Thailium    | Vanadium | ı. |
| ar worlding corre | Domestic Supply         | New Mexico       | 74 (33 111 (31 ) | 0.0058  | 0.810   | 2.0    | 0.0040    | 0.0050   | Contrast | 0.10     | Const    | 3.36   |       | 9,8150  |          | Wanganese | 8.0820   | TO Y KOCHAN | 0.7    | 100037337 | 8.050    | 3.00     |        | 0.002       |          | t  |
| _                 | Domestic Source         | Utah             |                  | 1       | 0.010   | 1.0    | 0,0040    | 0.010    | -        | 0.050    |          | 1      |       | 0.0150  |          |           | 0.0020   |             |        |           | 0.050    | 0.058    |        |             |          | f  |
| Domestic          | Domestic Water Supply   | Navajo Nation    |                  | 0.00550 | 9,810   | 1.0    | 0.0040    | 0.0050   | 1        | 0.10     |          | 1.38   |       | 0.8150  |          |           | 8.0830   |             | 6.6    |           | 8.050    | 0.0350   |        | 0.0030      |          | t  |
| Nater Supply      | Drinking Water          | Ute Mountain Ute | 6.2000           | 9,80558 | 0.000   | 1.8    | 1         | 0.0050   |          | 8.18     |          | 1.00   |       | 0.0580  |          |           | 0,0001   |             | 0.3    |           | 0.050    | 0.1000   |        |             |          | t  |
|                   | Domestic Supply 1-Day   | Colorado         | 100000000        | 1       |         | 1.0    | -         | 0.0050   |          | 0.050    |          | 1      |       | 0.050   |          |           | 8.0820   |             |        |           |          | 0.10     |        |             |          | T  |
|                   | Primary Human Contact   | Nava o Nation    | 1                | 0.376   | 0.030   | 180    | 1.870     | 0.470    |          | 1        | <u> </u> | 9,338  |       | 0.0150  |          |           | 8.280    |             | 18.7   |           | 4870     | 4,678    |        | 0.0750      |          | T  |
| Recreation        | Secondary Human Contact | Navaio Nation    | 1                | 8,370   | 9,760   | sax    | 1.878     | 0.476    |          | 1        |          | 9,330  |       | 0.8150  |          |           | 0.380    |             | 10.3   |           | 4.670    | 4.570    |        | 0.0350      |          |    |
|                   | Ceremonial, other uses  | Ute Mountain Ute | 0.2000           | 8,0056  | 0.8000  | 1,0008 |           | 0.0050   |          | 0.1580   |          | 1,8000 |       | 0.0580  |          |           | 0,0001   |             | 0.1008 |           | 8.0500   | 0.3600   |        | LIZZIO ESS. |          | T  |
| and Human         | Fish consumption        | Ute Mountain Ute | 1000000          | 8,955   | 8.06001 |        | 1         | 0.064    |          | 530,0    |          | 1      |       | -       | 1        |           | 0,000    |             | 4.6    |           | 4,200    | 110,000  |        |             |          | T  |
| Contact           | Recreational            | Utah             | 822              | 0.248   | 0.186   | 134.3  | 1.242     | 0.862    |          | 0.4180   | 7.9310   | 5,208  | 851.5 | 0.9180  |          | 31.0      | 1.243    | 3,304       | 17.5   |           | 9.104    | 3.638    |        | 0.0250      | 621      | T  |
|                   | Recreational            | Region 6         | 1798             | 0.0678  | 9,850   | 3920   | 0.338     | 0.0830   |          | 230.0    | 0.050    | 5.78   | 120.0 | 0.20    |          | 7.80      | 0.050    | 6.830       | 3.30   |           | 8.830    |          |        | 0.0010      | 0.83     | T  |
|                   | Irrigation              | Region 6         | 1                | 5.0     |         |        |           | 0.810    |          | 0.10     | 1.0      | 0.20   |       | 5.0     |          | 0.20      |          |             | 0.20   |           | 0.190    |          |        |             | 0.10     | Т  |
|                   | Irrigation              | New Mexico       | 5.0              |         | 8.20    |        | 1         | 0.018    |          | 0.10     | 0.050    | 828    |       | 5.0     |          |           |          | 2.0         |        |           | 8.130    |          |        |             | 0.10     | Т  |
| Agriculture       | Irrigation (short-term) | Utah             | 20,3             |         | 2.0     |        |           | 0,850    |          | 1.0      | 5.0      | 5.0    | 20,0  | 39.8    |          | 10.0      |          | 0.058       | 3.5    |           | 0.020    |          |        |             | 2.0      | T  |
|                   | Irrigation (long-term)  | Utah             | 5.0              |         | 8.28    |        |           | 0.018    |          | 0.10     | 0:050    | 8.28   | 5.0   | 5.0     |          | 0.20      |          | 0.010       | 0.20   |           | 8.020    |          |        |             | 0.10     | Т  |
|                   | Agricultural Uses       | Utah             |                  |         | 0.10    |        |           | 0.010    |          | 0.10     |          | 0.20   |       | 8.18    |          |           |          |             |        |           | 0.050    |          |        |             |          | П  |
|                   | Agricultural Supply     | Navaio Nation    | 5.0              |         | 2.0     |        |           | 0.058    |          | 3.6      | 0.059    | 0.28   |       | 10.0    |          |           |          | 230         |        |           | 8,020    |          |        |             | 0.10     | T  |
|                   | Agriculture             | Ute Mountain Ute |                  |         | 8.1     |        |           | 0.810    |          | 0.1      |          | 0.20   |       | 0.1     |          |           | 0.0108   |             | 0,200  |           | 0.020    |          |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Revised Ag Water Supply | Region 9         | S.O              |         | 2.0     |        |           | 0.050    |          | 1.0      | 0.050    | 0.20   |       | 10.0    |          |           |          | 1.0         |        |           | 0.620    |          |        |             | 6.16     | T  |
|                   | Agriculture             | Colorado         |                  |         | 0.10    |        | 9.19      | 0.010    |          | 9.19     |          | 0.20   |       | 9.10    |          | 5.25      |          | 0.30        | 6.26   |           | 0.026    |          |        |             |          | I  |
|                   | Livestock               | Region 6         |                  |         |         |        | 0.10      | 6.050    |          | 1.0      |          | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |          |           | 0.016    |             | 1.0    |           | 0.250    |          |        |             | 6.16     | Т  |
|                   | Livestock updated       | Region 9         |                  |         | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    |          | 1.0      | 1.6      | 0.50   |       | 9.10    |          |           |          |             |        |           | 0.050    |          |        |             | 0.10     | Τ  |
| the second        | Livestock               | New Mexico       |                  |         | 9.39    |        |           | 6.050    |          | 1.0      | 1.0      | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |          |           | 0.016    |             |        |           | 0.650    |          |        |             | 6.16     | Τ  |
| Livestock         | Livestock               | Utah             | 5.0              |         | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    | \$86.8   | 10       | 1.6      | 0.80   |       | 9.10    | 250.0    |           | 2610     |             |        |           | 0.050    |          | 1600.0 |             | 0.10     | T  |
|                   | Livestock Watering      | Navajo Nation    |                  |         | 9.29    |        |           | 6.050    |          | 1.0      | 1.0      | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |          |           |          |             |        |           | 0.650    |          |        |             | 6.16     | П  |
|                   | Wildlife Habitat        | New Mexico       |                  |         |         |        |           |          |          |          |          |        |       |         |          |           | 0.000720 |             |        |           | 0.005    |          |        |             |          | Г  |
|                   | Acute Ag and Wildlife   | Navajo Nation    | 0,750            | 8.088   | 5,340   |        |           | 0.0035   |          |          |          | 8250.0 |       | 0.1361  |          |           | 9.6024   |             | 0.6417 |           | 0.0350   | 6.0198   |        | 0.70        |          | 0  |
|                   | Acute Warm Water        | Ute Mountain Ute | 0.050            |         | 0.150   |        |           | 6.0639   |          | 1.005    |          | 0.0258 |       | 0.1381  |          |           | 0.0063   |             | 0.8417 |           | 0.6200   | 0.0114   |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Aquatic Acute           | Region 6         |                  | 828.8   | 0.340   |        |           | 0.00288  |          | 0.9720   |          | 0.0250 |       | 0.130   |          | 3.216     | 0.90149  |             | 0.8130 |           | 9.620    | 9.00990  |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Aquatic Acute           | Region 9         |                  | 8.3580  |         |        | 5,340     | 0.60288  |          | 0.9730   |          | 0.0250 |       | 0.130   |          | 9.710     | 0.1049   |             | 0.8150 |           | 0.026    | 0.00590  |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Aquatic Acute           | New Mexico       | 9.5725           |         | 0.340   |        |           | 0.693134 |          | 0.0160   |          | 0.6223 |       | 0.145   |          | 5.8568    | 2.6014   | 7,920       | 0.864  |           | 0.620    | 6.0117   |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Warm Water Fish 1-hr    | Utah             | 0.250            |         | 0.340   |        |           | 0.904    |          | 1.005    |          | 0.0258 | 1.0   | 0.1361  |          |           |          |             | 2800.0 |           | 0.01840  | 30.59717 |        |             |          |    |
| A                 | Warm Water Fish 4-day   | Utah             | otsno            |         | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000    |          | 0.1368   |          | 0.6162 | 1.6   | 0.06531 |          |           | 6.000013 |             | 0.063  |           | 0.00460  |          |        |             |          |    |
| Aquatic Life      | Caronic Warm Water      | Ute Mountain Ute |                  |         | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000398 |          | 0.1308   |          | 0.0162 |       | 0.00531 |          |           | 0.000033 |             | 0.093  |           | 0.00500  | 6.061    |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Aquatic Acute           | Colorado         | 7.9432           |         | 0.3400  |        |           | 0.8047   |          | 0.0150   |          | 0.6240 |       | 0.1253  |          | 5.6647    |          |             | 0.7879 |           | 6.01840  | 9.69585  |        |             |          | T, |
|                   | Aquatic Chronic         | Region 6         |                  | 3.3480  | 0.150   |        |           | 0.00072  |          | 0.1280   | 0:050    | 0.0160 |       | 0.0050  |          | 2.050     | 0.00027  |             | 9.090  |           | 0.0950   |          |        |             |          |    |
|                   | Aquatic Chronic         | Region 9         |                  | 3.3480  |         |        | 0.150     | 0.00622  |          | 0.1250   |          | 0.6120 |       | 0.0050  |          | 2.056     | 0.00092  |             | 0.096  |           | 0.0050   |          |        |             |          | 6  |



### **WQ** Exceedances

### During the Interval From August 2015 to August 2016

#### Count of exceedances: yellow in box indicates at least 1

There were water quality exceedances during the Gold King plume

| Number of Exce        | edan | ces Obse    | erved in | Monit    | oring D             | ata    |          |
|-----------------------|------|-------------|----------|----------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Colora                | do   |             |          | ANIN     | 1AS RI              | IVER   |          |
| n= 371                | Alli | ininum leaf | Arse     | enic cor | pe <sup>r</sup> lin | نی ریز | arrium . |
| Domestic Supply 1-Day | 0    | 42          | 0        | 0        | 0                   | 4      |          |
| Agriculture           | 0    | 23          | 5        | 9        | 2                   | 2      |          |
| Aquatic Acute         | 9    | 0           | 0        | 6        | 19                  | 1.     |          |
| Aquatic Chronic       | 76   | 4           | 0        | 11       | 25                  | 30     |          |

| New              | Mexico | )    |        |          |         |       |      |
|------------------|--------|------|--------|----------|---------|-------|------|
| n= 416           | Alur   | inum | d Arse | enic COD | per lin | i (gè | mirn |
| Domestic Supply  | 0      | 6    | 1      | 0        | 0       | 0     |      |
| Irrigation       | 9      | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0       | 0     |      |
| Livestock        | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0       | 0     |      |
| Wildlife Habitat | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0        | 0       | 0     |      |
| Aquatic Acute    | 47     | 0    | 0      | 4        | 0       | 0     |      |
| Aquatic Chronic  | 95     | 13   | 0      | 7        | 1       | 2     |      |

Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data

- There have been exceedances post-event
- Some repeated, some storm event related

Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data

| UTAH                    |   |             |      | SAN.     | IUAN                 | RIVER  |     |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|------|----------|----------------------|--------|-----|
| n= 300                  | Ali                                     | Initum Lead | Arse | itic Cot | pe <sup>r</sup> line | , (adi | mum |
| Domestic Source         |   | S           | 2    | f        | ·                    | 0      |     |
| Recreational            | 0                                       | 0           | 0    | 0        | 0                    | 0      |     |
| Irrigation (short-term) | 4                                       | 0           | 0    | 0        | 0                    | 0      |     |
| Irrigation (long-term)  | 13                                      | 0           | 0    | 1        | 0                    | 0      |     |
| Agricultural Uses       |   | 0           | 0    | 1        |                      | 0      |     |
| Livestock               | 13                                      | 0           | 0    | 0        | 0                    | 0      |     |
| Warm Water Fish 1-hr    | 36                                      | 0           | 0    | 4        | 2                    | 0      |     |
| Warm Water Fish 4-day   | *************************************** | 11          | 0    | 7        | 2                    | 6      |     |

#### **Preliminary**



# WQ Exceedances San Juan River San Juan River - Navajo Nation, Ute Mtn Ute

Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data

#### **NAVAJO NATION**

**SAN JUAN RIVER** 

- Tribal criteria establish significantly lower thresholds for many criteria
- Exceeded frequently
- Many exceedances can be explained by natural sediment loads

| n= 589                  | Alur | ninum Lead | Arse | ric Cop | je <sup>t</sup> ir | , /o | drium |
|-------------------------|------|------------|------|---------|--------------------|------|-------|
| Domestic Water Supply   | 0    | 261        | 154  | 0       | 0                  | 14   |       |
| Primary Human Contact   | 0    | 261        | 25   | 0       | 0                  | 0    |       |
| Secondary Human Contact | 0    | 261        | 0    | 0       | 0                  | 0    |       |
| Agricultural Supply     | 22   | 0          | 0    | 0       | 0                  | 0    |       |
| Livestock Watering      | 0    | 53         | 0    | 0       | 0                  | 0    |       |
| Acute Ag and Wildlife   | 552  | 1          | 0    | 0       | 6                  | 1    |       |
| Chronic Ag and Wildlife | 586  | 23         | 0    | 0       | 6                  | 169  |       |

Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data

**UTE MOUNTAIN UTE** 

**SAN JUAN RIVER** 

| Preliminary<br>n= 209  | Alur | hinum Leaf | d Arse | inic Cor | pe <sup>t</sup> tin | Cadri |
|------------------------|------|------------|--------|----------|---------------------|-------|
| Drinking Water         | 205  | 50         | 209    | 0        | 0                   | 0     |
| Ceremonial, other uses | 0    | 50         | 209    | 0        | 0                   | 0     |
| Fish consumption       | 0    | 0          | 209    | 0        | 0                   | 0     |
| Agriculture            | 0    | 10         | 0      | 1        | 0                   | 0     |
| Acute Warm Water       | 194  | 200        | 0      | 10       | 205                 | 0     |
| Chronic Warm Water     | 0    | 200        | 0      | 205      | 205                 | 191   |

### **Challenge for Office of Water**

 How to interpret monitoring data for "importance" of Gold King

### **Challenge for ORD**

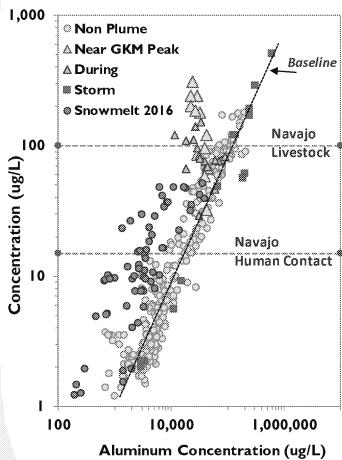
 Can we identify which of these exceedances belong to Gold King?



### Water Quality Criteria San Juan Out of Alignment with Background Conditions

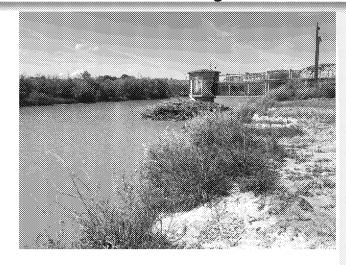
#### San Juan at Shiprock August 2016

#### Total Lead in Relation to Aluminum in San Juan River

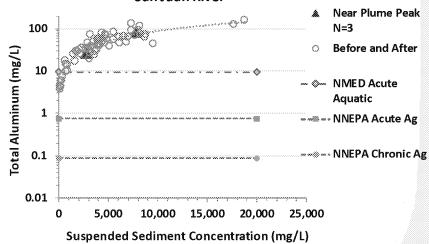


**Correlation technique can help** with sorting Gold King effects from natural background metals and pre-existing contaminated conditions

Natural sediment loads in the San Juan ensure that aluminum will almost always exceed some of the New Mexico, Utah and Navajo criteria



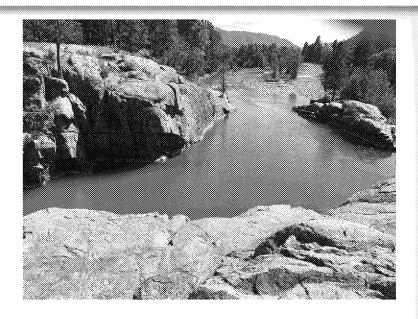
San Juan River





# Key Findings-Gold King Release Post Event

- ORD produced hydrologic and geochemical evaluations of the Gold King release during and for a year following the release
- Post event water quality response from August to October 2015 varied by location
  - Animas in Colorado returned to background
  - Animas in New Mexico and San Juan River had elevated metals above expected
  - Chronic exceedances of water quality criteria revealed by monitoring
  - 2016 snowmelt had elevated metals throughout the system—partly from Gold King, partly from historic mining impacts
    - Model results and analyses indicate GKM metals now out of rivers
    - 2016 samples after snowmelt at pre-event levels at all locations
    - We have a "fingerprint" unique to identify metals of the Gold King release
  - There were water quality exceedances before, during the plume and post event varying by location and state or tribe, some due to Gold King



#### Next Steps:

- Finalizing ORD Report
- Working with OWOW to have ORD report support
   EPA obligations for a 1<sup>st</sup> year monitoring report
- Evaluating monitoring needs going forward
- Publish findings



# Project Team

#### **ORD/NERL**

- Kate Sullivan, Hydrology, project lead
- Chris Knightes, WASP lead, water quality
- Mike Cyterski, Data analysis, statistics
- John Washington, Geochemistry
- Steve Kraemer, Groundwater
- · Craig Barber, Fish effects
- Lourdes Prieto, Data acquisition and GIS
- Anne Neale, Megan Mehaffey, EnviroAtlas
- Brian Avants; Mike Mangiante (EPA ORISE Fellows)
- Elena Horvath & Megan Culler (EPA Student Services Contractors);

### **Compiled State and Tribal Water Criteria**

### Water Quality Criteria

- Use both dissolved and total fractions
- A lot of variation for the same metal depending on use and entity
- States generally similar
- Tribal criteria tend to be lower

Surface Water Quality Screening Criteria mg/L

| Screening Crite      | ria                     |                  | Aluminum | Antimony | Arsenic | Barium | Beryllium | Cadmium  | Calcium | Chromium | Cobalt           | Copper | iron  | Lead    | Magnesium | Manganese | Mercury                                | Volybdenun | Nickel | Potassium | Selenium | Silver   | Sodium | Thallium | Vanadium | Zinc   |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|------------------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|--|------------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
|                      | Domestic Supply         | New Mexico       |          | 0.0060   | 0.010   | 2.0    | 0.0040    | 0.0050   |         | 0.10     |                  | 1.30   |       | 0.0150  |           |           | 0.0020                                 |            | 0.7    |           | 0.050    |          |        | 0.002    |          | 10.50  |
|                      | Domestic Source         | Utah             |          |          | 0.010   | 1.0    | 0.0040    | 0.010    |         | 0.050    |                  |        |       | 0.0150  |           |           | 0.0020                                 |            |        |           | 0.050    | 0.050    |        |          |          | T      |
| Domestic             | Domestic Water Supply   | Navajo Nation    |          | 0.00560  | 0.010   | 1.0    | 0.0040    | 0.0050   |         | 0.10     |                  | 1.30   |       | 0.0150  |           |           | 0.0020                                 |            | 0.6    |           | 0.050    | 0.0350   |        | 0.0020   |          | 2.10   |
| Water Supply         | Drinking Water          | Ute Mountain Ute | 0.2090   | 0.00560  | 0.000   | 1.0    |           | 0,0050   |         | 0.16     |                  | 1.00   |       | 0.0500  |           |           | 0.0001                                 |            | 0.1    |           | 0.050    | 0.1000   |        |          |          | 5.00   |
|                      | Domestic Supply 1-Day   | Colorado         |          |          |         | 1.0    |           | 0.0050   |         | 0.050    |                  |        |       | 0.050   |           |           | 0.0020                                 |            |        |           |          | 0.10     |        |          |          |        |
|                      | Primary Human Contact   | Navajo Nation    |          | 0.370    | 0.030   | 98.0   | 1.870     | 0.470    |         |          |                  | 9.330  |       | 0.0150  |           |           | 0.280                                  |            | 18.7   |           | 4.670    | 4.670    |        | 0.0750   |          | 280.0  |
| Descrition           | Secondary Human Contact | Navajo Nation    |          | 0.370    | 0.280   | 98.0   | 1.870     | 0.470    |         |          |                  | 9.330  |       | 0.0150  |           |           | 0.280                                  |            | 18.7   |           | 4.670    | 4.670    |        | 0.0750   |          | 280.0  |
| Recreation           | Ceremonial, other uses  | Ute Mountain Ute | 0.2000   | 0.0056   | 0.0000  | 1.0000 |           | 0.0050   |         | 0.1600   |                  | 1.0000 |       | 0.0500  |           |           | 0.0001                                 |            | 0.1000 |           | 0.0500   | 0.1000   |        |          |          | 5.000  |
| and Human<br>Contact | Fish consumption        | Ute Mountain Ute |          | 0.056    | 0.00001 |        |           | 0.084    |         | 670.0    |                  |        |       |         |           |           | 0.000                                  |            | 4.6    |           | 4.200    | 110.000  |        |          |          | 26.0   |
| Contact              | Recreational            | Utah             | 621      | 0.248    | 0.186   | 124.2  | 1.242     | 0.062    |         | 0.4100   | 7.9310           | 6.208  | 851.6 | 0.9100  |           | 31.0      | 1.242                                  | 3.104      | 17.5   |           | 3,104    | 3.630    |        | 0.0250   | 6.23     | 217.8  |
|                      | Recreational            | Region 6         | 170.0    | 0.0670   | 0.050   | 33.0   | 0.330     | 0.0830   |         | 220.0    | 0.050            | 6.70   | 120.0 | 0.20    |           | 7.80      | 0.050                                  | 0.830      | 3.30   |           | 0.830    |          |        | 0.0020   | 0.83     | 50.0   |
|                      | Inigation               | Region 6         |          | 5.0      |         |        |           | 0.010    |         | 0.10     | 1.0              | 0.20   |       | 5.0     |           | 0.20      |  |            | 0.20   |           | 0.130    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 2.0    |
|                      | Irrigation              | New Mexico       | 5.0      |          | 0.10    |        |           | 0.010    |         | 0.10     | 0.050            | 0.20   |       | 5.0     |           |           |  | 1.0        |        |           | 0.130    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 2.0    |
|                      | Irrigation (short-term) | Utah             | 20.0     |          | 2.0     |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 5.0              | 5.0    | 20.0  | 10.0    |           | 10.0      |  | 0.050      | 2.0    |           | 0.020    |          |        |          | 1.0      | 10.0   |
|                      | Irrigation (long-term)  | Utah             | 5.0      |          | 0.10    |        |           | 0.010    |         | 0.10     | 0.050            | 0.20   | 5.0   | 5.0     |           | 0.20      |  | 0.010      | 0.20   |           | 0.020    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 2.0    |
| Agriculture          | Agricultural Uses       | Utah             |          |          | 0.10    |        |           | 0.010    |         | 0.10     |                  | 0.20   |       | 0.10    |           |           |  |            |        |           | 0.050    |          |        | <u> </u> |          |        |
|                      | Agricultural Supply     | Navajo Nation    | 5.0      |          | 2.0     |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 0.050            | 0.20   |       | 10.0    |           |           |  | 1.0        |        |           | 0.020    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 10.0   |
|                      | Agriculture             | Ute Mountain Ute |          |          | 0.1     |        |           | 0.010    |         | 0.1      |                  | 0.20   |       | 0.1     |           |           | 0.0100                                 |            | 0.200  |           | 0.020    |          |        |          |          | 2.0    |
|                      | Revised Ag Water Supply | Region 9         | 5,0      |          | 2.0     |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 0.050            | 0.20   |       | 10.0    |           |           |  | 1.0        |        |           | 0.020    |          |        |          | 0,10     | 10.0   |
|                      | Agriculture             | Colorado         |          |          | 0.10    |        | 0.10      | 0.010    |         | 0.10     |                  | 0.20   |       | 0.10    |           | 0.20      |  | 0.30       | 0.20   |           | 0.020    |          |        | <u> </u> |          | 2.0    |
|                      | Livestock               | Region 6         |          |          |         |        | 0.10      | 0.050    |         | 1.0      |                  | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |           |           | 0.010                                  |            | 1.0    |           | 0.250    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 25.0   |
|                      | Livestock updated       | Region 9         |          |          | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 1.0              | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |           |           |  |            |        |           | 0.050    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 25.0   |
| Livestock            | Livestock               | New Mexico       |          |          | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 1.0              | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |           |           | 0.010                                  |            |        |           | 0.050    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 25.0   |
| LIVESTOCK            | Livestock               | Utah             | 5.0      |          | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    | 500.0   | 1.0      | 1.0              | 0.50   |       | 0.10    | 250.0     |           | 0.010                                  |            |        |           | 0.050    |          | 1000.0 |          | 0.10     | 25.0   |
|                      | Livestock Watering      | Navajo Nation    |          |          | 0.20    |        |           | 0.050    |         | 1.0      | 1.0              | 0.50   |       | 0.10    |           |           |  |            |        |           | 0.050    |          |        |          | 0.10     | 25.0   |
|                      | Wildlife Habitat        | New Mexico       |          |          |         |        |           |          |         |          |                  |        |       |         |           |           | 0.000770                               |            |        |           | 0.005    |          |        |          |          |        |
|                      | Acute Ag and Wildlife   | Navajo Nation    | 0.750    | 0.088    | 0.340   |        |           | 0.0039   |         |          |                  | 0.0258 |       | 0.1361  |           |           | 0.0024                                 |            | 0.8417 |           | 0.0330   | 0.0106   |        | 0.70     |          | 0.2108 |
|                      | Acute Warm Water        | Ute Mountain Ute | 0.050    |          | 0.150   |        |           | 0.0039   |         | 1.005    |                  | 0.0258 |       | 0.1361  |           |           | 0.0001                                 |            | 0.8417 |           | 0.0200   | 0.0114   |        |          |          | 0.2108 |
|                      | Aquatic Acute           | Region 6         |          | 8.358    | 0.340   |        |           | 0.00288  |         | 0.9720   |                  | 0.0250 |       | 0.130   |           | 3.710     | 0.00140                                |            | 0.8130 |           | 0.020    | 0.00990  |        |          |          | 0.290  |
|                      | Aquatic Acute           | Region 9         |          | 8.3580   |         |        | 0.340     | 0.00288  |         | 0.9720   |                  | 0.0250 |       | 0.130   |           | 3.710     | 0.1040                                 |            | 0.8130 |           | 0.020    | 0.00990  |        |          |          | 0.290  |
|                      | Aquatic Acute           | New Mexico       | 9,5725   |          | 0.340   |        |           | 0.003134 |         | 0.0160   |                  | 0.0273 |       | 0.145   |           | 3.8348    | 0.0014                                 | 7.920      | 0.884  |           | 0.020    | 0.0117   |        |          |          | 0.3169 |
|                      | Warm Water Fish 1-hr    | Utah             | 0.750    |          | 0.340   |        |           | 0.004    |         | 1.005    |                  | 0.0258 | 1.0   | 0.1361  |           |           |  |            | 0.0935 |           | 0.01840  | 10.59717 |        |          |          | 0.213  |
| Aquatic Life         | Warm Water Fish 4-day   | Utah             | 0.0870   |          | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000    |         | 0.1308   |                  | 0.0162 | 1.0   | 0.00531 |           |           | 0.000012                               |            | 8,00,0 |           | 0.00460  |          |        |          |          | 0.213  |
| Aquatic Life         | Chronic Warm Water      | Ute Mountain Ute |          |          | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000398 |         | 0.1308   |                  | 0.0162 |       | 0.00531 |           |           | 0.000012                               |            | 0.093  |           | 0.00500  | 0.001    |        |          |          | 0.213  |
|                      | Aquatic Acute           | Colorado         | 7.9432   |          | 0.3400  |        |           | 0.0047   |         | 0.0160   | **************** | 0.0240 |       | 0.1253  |           | 3.6647    | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, |            | 0.7879 |           | 0.01840  | 0.00585  |        |          | <u> </u> | 0.280  |
|                      | Aquatic Chronic         | Region 6         |          | 3.3480   | 0.150   |        |           | 0,00072  |         | 0.1260   | 0.050            | 0.0160 |       | 0.0050  |           | 2.050     | 0.00077                                |            | 0,090  |           | 0.0050   |          |        |          | <u> </u> | 0,219  |
|                      | Aquatic Chronic         | Region 9         | 1        | 3.3480   |         |        | 0.150     | 0.00072  |         | 0.1260   |                  | 0.0160 |       | 0.0050  |           | 2.050     | 0.00077                                |            | 0.090  |           | 0.0050   |          |        |          |          | 0.219  |
|                      | Chronic Ag and Wildlife | Navajo Nation    | 0.0870   | 0.030    | 0.150   |        |           | 0.0004   |         |          |                  | 0.0162 |       | 0.0053  |           |           | 0.000001                               |            | 0.0935 |           | 0.0020   |          |        | 0.150    | L        | 0.212  |
|                      | Aquatic Chronic         | New Mexico       | 3.8351   |          | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000777 |         | 0.0110   |                  | 0.0170 |       | 0.0056  |           | 2.1187    | 0.00077                                | 1.8950     | 0.098  |           | 0.0050   |          |        |          | <u></u>  | 0.240  |
|                      | Aquatic Chronic         | Colorado         | 1.1340   |          | 0.150   |        |           | 0.000674 |         | 0.0110   |                  | 0.0151 | 1.0   | 0.00488 |           | 2.0247    | 0.00001                                |            | 0.0875 |           | 0.00460  | 0.0002   |        | 0.0150   |          | 0.2120 |

We screened post release data against all criteria

Some require water hardness measure

Dissolved

Total